

**POLREP 1  
FUROLITE CHEMICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
G AND ERIE STREETS  
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

**ATTN: CHARLIE KLEEMAN AND TIM FIELDS**

**I. SITUATION (THURSDAY, 9/28/89, 0800 HOURS)**

**A. A FIRE OCCURRED AT THE FUROLITE CHEMICAL FACILITY WHICH FORCED EVACUATION OF 600 RESIDENTS IN THE AREA DUE TO THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INVOLVED IN THE FIRE. EPA RESPONDED TO THE FIRE TO ASSIST THE PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT (PFD) AT THE SCENE.**

**B. PERSONNEL ON SCENE-**

**EPA-1**

**TAT-5**

**PFD-38 COMPANIES**

**PA DER-1**

**PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT/INDUSTRIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT-**

**PHILADELPHIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT/AIR MANAGEMENT-6**

**II. ACTIONS TAKEN**

**A. 9/27/89, 2215 HOURS - DUTY OFFICER DOWNIE WAS NOTIFIED OF A FIRE AT THE FUROLITE CHEMICAL FACILITY, G AND ERIE STREETS, BY THE PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT (PFD). THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS ON SCENE, AND THE FIRE HAD PROGRESSED TO SIX ALARMS. RESIDENTS IN THE AREA WERE EVACUATED DUE TO THE HAZARDOUS NATURE OF THE MATERIALS IN THE PLANT. ASSISTANCE FROM EPA FOR AIR MONITORING AND SITE ASSESSMENT WAS REQUESTED BY PFD. OSC HESTON WAS NOTIFIED AT 2250 HOURS AND DISPATCHED TAT TO THE SCENE.**

**B. 9/27/89, 2330 HOURS - OSC HESTON AND TAT MET AT THE SCENE TO ASSESS THE SITUATION. THE CHEMICAL FACILITY WAS ENGULFED IN THE FIRE AND MOST OF THE STRUCTURES WERE DESTROYED. THE CHEMICALS PRINCIPALLY INVOLVED INCLUDED STYRENE, DIVINYL BENZENE, SULFURIC ACID, SODIUM HYDROXIDE AND HYDROCHLORIC ACID. PFD REQUESTED EPA TO AIR MONITOR THE PERIMETER OF THE SITE FOR VOLATILE ORGANICS AND ACID FUMES.**

**C. 9/28/89, 0030 HOURS - TAT CONDUCTED AIR MONITORING AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE SITE. NO VOLATILE ORGANICS ABOVE BACKGROUND WERE DETECTED AND 1 PPM OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID WAS DETECTED.**

**D. 9/28/89, 0100 HOURS - INDUSTRIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT INFORMED EPA THAT THE PH OF WATER IN THE SEWER LOCATED NEAR THE SITE HAD DROPPED TO 2 AFTER AN EARLIER RISE TO 9.**

**E. DUE TO A RECENT CHEMICAL SAFETY AUDIT CONDUCTED AT THE SITE, ON 9/11/89, EPA WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PFD ON LOCATION OF CHEMICALS IN THE FACILITY AND INFORMATION ON THE CHEMICALS INVOLVED.**

**F. 9/28/89, 0130 HOURS - PFD REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM EPA ON 40 BROMINE CYLINDERS LOCATED IN THE FACILITY. TAT INFORMED THEM THAT 30 OF THE CYLINDERS WERE BELIEVED TO BE EMPTY AND 10 WERE FULL. HOWEVER, THESE CYLINDERS WERE LOCATED IN AN AREA OF THE BUILDING NOT INVOLVED IN THE FIRE.**

**G. 9/28/89, 0200 HOURS - OSC HESTON OFFSITE. TAT INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE AIR MONITORING AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE SITE.**

**H. 9/28/89, 0230 HOURS - RESULTS FROM TAT AIR MONITORING CONTINUED TO SHOW NO LEVELS OF ORGANIC VAPORS ABOVE BACKGROUND AND 1 PPM OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID AT THE PERIMETER OF THE SITE. BASED ON THESE**

**100030**

RESULTS, PFD DECIDED TO ALLOW THE EVACUATED RESIDENTS TO RETURN HOME. PFD REQUESTED EPA ASSISTANCE ON ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERIOR OF THE FACILITY WHEN THE FIRE IS EXTINGUISHED.

I. 9/28/89, 0300 HOURS - TAT OFFSITE.

III. FUTURE PLANS

A. EPA TO RETURN TO SITE ON 9/28/89 AFTER FIRE IS EXTINGUISHED TO MEET WITH CITY REPRESENTATIVES AND AND TO ASSIST THEM IN ASSESSING THE REVLINING HAZARDS IN THE FACILITY.

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